



League of Women Voters® Austin Area

Workbook

2016 Annual Meeting League of Women Voters Austin Area

Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway

Please bring this *Annual Meeting Workbook* to the meeting.

AGENDA

- 6:00 Bring a covered dish or a donation of \$10.00 (dish preferred).
- 6:45 Call to order. A quorum is required (21 people).
- 6:46 Welcome and introduction of officers and directors – Carol Olewin
- 6:50 Recognition of lifetime members and introduction of New Members – Judy Parken
- 7:10 Recognition of Office Corps – Jaci Collins
- 7:15 Appointment of the Minutes Review Committee, Parliamentarian, and Timekeeper – Carol Olewin
- 7:17 Adoption of Roberts Rules of Order for Annual Meeting
- 7:19 Approve Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting - Diane Davis
- 7:24 Treasurer’s report – Gwen Santiago
- 7:29 Consider converting to an all 501(c)3 status - Gwen Santiago
- 7:34 President’s annual report to the membership – Carol Olewin
- 7:44 Presentation and adoption of local program – Lea Masiello
- 8:05 Presentation and adoption of proposed by-laws changes – Maxine Barkan
- 8:10 Presentation and adoption of the proposed budget – Tom Canby
- 8:25 Recognition of outgoing board member – Frances McIntyre
- 8:30 Report of the Nominating Committee – Margit Orange
- 8:35 Election of Officers and Directors – Carol Olewin
- 8:40 Election of Chair and two members for the Nominating Committee – Carol Olewin
- 8:45 Dream time: “I Wish the League would...” (Use cards provided to write down your dreams.)
- 8:55 Announcements/Group Photo
- 9:00 Adjourn

Please bring this *Annual Meeting Workbook* to the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Fellow League Members:

2016 was another active year for the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area. We are a fully volunteer organization and all our activities are run by members' participation and input.

Here's a recap of our year:

- State of the County Meeting, coordinated by Eliza May, was a wonderful success as we heard from the Honorable Sarah Eckhardt, County Judge, Travis County Commissioners Court. Judge Eckhardt is the first elected female Travis County Judge. One hundred nineteen people attended the event at the DoubleTree Hotel and raised over \$4,800 to fund our Education outreach programs.
 - The League's "Making Democracy Work Award" was awarded to women mayors of jurisdiction in Travis County for "their civic leadership and meaningful contributions to their cities, setting a positive example for young women to follow." Mayors receiving awards: the Hon. Caroline Murphy, City of Bee Cave; the Hon. Deane Armstrong, Mayor, City of Jonestown; the Hon. Rita Jonse, Mayor, City of Manor; the Hon. Rose Cardona, Mayor, City of Sunset Valley; the Hon. Linda Anthony, Mayor, City of West Lake Hills; and the Hon. Cristin Cecala, Mayor, Village of Point Venture. Mayors Armstrong, Cecala, and Jonse were the first elected female mayors in their jurisdictions.
 - Gina Hinojosa, President, Austin ISD Board of Trustees, was the speaker at our September Kick-off meeting where she outlined her goals for AISD and talked about the funding challenges facing AISD.
 - Frances McIntyre led the Local Issues Discussion Group which monitored and discussed the activities of the City of Austin.
 - June Conway led the Voter Volunteer Deputy Registrar Corps. A dedicated group of League volunteers that were dispatched to events, forums, and meetings to register voters for Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector/Voter Registrar Bruce Elfant's voter registration program.
 - Jaci Collins led the Office Corps. The Office Corps consists of volunteers that manage the day-to-day activities of the League, answering and returning phone calls, receiving and sorting mail, creating and maintaining spreadsheets, drafting letters and documents and filing.
 - Cinde Weatherby expanded the League's outreach to community organizations and developed a partnership with Alamo Drafthouse to showcase the League, and its role in voters service and engagement.
 - Jacklyn Williams led the Young Voters Initiative, a voter education outreach to local high schools.
 - Mary Cullinane, Lea Masiello, and Joanne Richards led this year's Programs on Pay Day & Title Loans, Money in Politics, Constitutional Amendments, and Ladders of Opportunity Panel.
 - Hal Jennings, Webmaster, boosted our outreach and led Social Media workshops to help members better learn how to use Facebook and Twitter.
 - The November 2015 Voters Guide on Constitutional Amendments, and Travis County Bond Initiative had 18,777 hits on our website. For the March 2016 Primary Election, we produced over 117,000 print copies of the Voters Guide in conjunction with the *Austin American-Statesman* newspaper, our website had over 37,000 hits.
 - The Austin League sent 7 delegates to the LWV-Texas Convention in Houston and will send 2 delegates to the LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC.
 - The year ends on a sound financial footing with over \$50,000 in combined assets.
- Consider joining the many activities and programs conducted by the Austin League. But most importantly, "Be A Texas Voter!" Know the issues and candidates.

Carol Olewin, President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We added 55 new members this last year!

New Members 2015-2016

Carol Ahlgren	Winifred Hoagland	Sandra Ragona
Alicia & Bruce Bogart	Alicia & Marshall Jones	Martha Rogers
Britin Bostick	Marti Kennedy	Virginia Rohlich
Birgitta Brandenstein	Julia Kirby	Joseph Santori
Kimberly Burris	Patricia M Klentzman	Jackie Sartor
Jeffrey Cardenas	Penelope Koo	Brian & Cindy Schaufenbuel
Gerald Daugherty	Liz Kozlow Marcum	Jessica Sherman
Ruth Davis	Susanne League	Paul Silver
Rustin Dudley	Martha Mercado	Charlotte Slack
Danielle Farmer	Kathyrn Mettelka	Florence Smythe-Macaulay
Jennifer Ann Fisher Household	Julie Nitsch	Mariel Stotts
Ajanette Gauntier	Mary & David Overton	Susan Theiss
John Goldstone	Joan Owens	Angelica Thomas
Barbara Grajski	Ann Peticolas	Ruth Yanoff
Thomas Grimshaw	Kim Sue Lia Perkes	Laura Yeager
Gayle & Mike Heath	Carol Peters	
Jenifer Hamilton Hernandez	Joan Quenan	

Our membership for 2016 was 202 members. Sixty-three members decided not to renew this year. We can do better.

The Austin League was deeply saddened by the passing of long-time members and former League Presidents, Janet Reed and Barbara Ruud, as well as the passing of Helen Putnam.

This year we continued the tradition of the New Members Holiday Brunch. At the brunch, we honored Lea Masiello for all her work for the Austin League especially since she was a new member serving on the board. Both Harriet Harrow and Brenda Koegler told the group what the League meant to them. Both were very inspiring! It was thoroughly enjoyed by 40 members.

PMP stands for Per Member Payment and each League reports the total membership to the national LWV in January. The membership number is used to determine what each League pays for each membership to LWVUS and LWV-Texas.

Currently dues for Sustaining Members are \$100 for individuals and \$150 for Household Membership. Regular dues are \$60 for individuals and \$90 for Households. Student memberships are \$20 and we have 4 student memberships this year.

Our League can only use \$7 out of the \$60 regular dues; the rest goes to LWVUS and LWV-Texas for PMP. We can only use \$9 out of the \$90 regular household dues. That is why being a Sustaining Member is so important. The number of Sustaining Members has allowed us to not raise dues for more than 5 years now. Please consider becoming a Sustaining Member next time you renew.

Membership is everyone's job, so please try to welcome and get to know New Members.

Sustaining Members 2015-2016

Robbie Ausley	Margaret Gomez	Nancy Neavel
Maxine Barkan	Vikki Goodwin	Belia Nichols
Shelly Baumgartner	Bob Gregory	Pat Oakes
Mary Blackstock	Sara Groff	Carol Olewin
Shay Blankenship	Kara Hall	Margit & Arnold Orange
Terrell Blodgett	Bill Hamilton	Mary & David Overton
Bruce & Alicia Bogart	Emma Hampton	Judy & Ed Parken
Gigi Edwards Bryant	Harriet Harrow	Anita Privett
Cecelia Burke	Karen Haschke	Pam Reed
Barbara Cambron	Louise Hasty	Bill & Suzy Reid
Kate & Tom Canby	Karen Hayward	Dorothy Richter
Kathy Carvell	Joan & David Hilgers	Gwen & Joe Santiago
Grace & Beau Chimene	Winifred Hoagland	O.R. Schmidt
Anne Clark	Hal & Judy Jennings	Jessica Sherman
Nan Clayton	Dr. Martin Kennedy	Ed Silha
Jaci Collins	Patricia Klentzman	Jan Soifer
Toye Goodson Collins	Brenda Koegler	Jeannie Stanley
June Conway	Joann Lovelace	Sonja Suessenbach
Thomas Coopwood	Liz Koslow Marcum	Gail Sulak
Gerald Daugherty	Janet Martin	Kay Taebel
Nancy Dittmar & Maxwell Stout	Lea Masiello & Jim Calahan	Angelica Thomas
Danelle Farmer	Frances McIntyre	Cinde Weatherby
Sandra & Larry Fox	Sheila Milner	Paula Weisner
Barbara & Chris Frandsen	Judy Moore	Barbara Werth
Carol Whitcraft Fredericks	Julie & Jodie Moore	Ruth Yanoff
Lucy & Gary Gibbs	Barbara Myers	

Judy Parken, Membership Chair

VOTERS SERVICE

The purpose of Voters Service is to provide “Communication and Coordination of Voters Service Activities for the Austin Area League”. We focus on Voter Registration, Voter Education, Publish the Voters Guide for Elections, Moderate Candidate Forums, “Get Out The Vote (GOTV)” and other events. We are concerned about activities for Adult and Youth Civic Engagement and welcome any ideas to get more citizens involved. We are non-partisan and do not endorse nor support candidates for office.

Voter Registration

This year we deputized approximately a dozen volunteers and held registration drives at numerous locations. The locations included:

- June 2015 - AGE of Central Texas rally at Manchaca Rd. Senior Center
- July 18 - AGE of Central Texas Inter-Generational Fun Fair at the Asian American Resource Center
- Aug. 6 – LBJ Presidential Library- Observation of the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act
- Sept. 16 - Diez y Seis Rally at ACC Riverside Campus
- Sept 22 – National Voter Registration Day Rally at ACC Highland Campus (partnered with ACC and Travis County)
 - Voter Registration station for staff and employees at State Supported Living Center
- Sept. 29 - Peck Young’s Constitution Day Rally at Palmer Events Center (with Travis County). This is an annual event for Austin Community College students.
- ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE Movie showings in partnership with Travis County
 - Nov. 13 and 14 at S. Lamar - "Suffragettes"
 - January 17th, 2016 at S. Lamar - “Suffragettes”
 - January 29th at Slaughter Ln. and 30th at Lakeline Mall - Michael Moore’s “Where to Invade Next”
 - February 13th and 14th at S. Lamar - Michael Moore’s “Where to Invade Next”

We received a donation to the Education Fund based on ticket sales for the Alamo Drafthouse events.

- March 5 - LBJ School of Public Affairs – Explore UT
- March 22 - Bass Concert Hall – LWVUS “Use Your Voice” Concert Series 2016
- April 2 – ACC Eastview Campus – Women’s Community Resource Center 2016 Resource Fair
- April 17 – Texas State Capitol – Democracy Awakening Rally

June Conway did an outstanding job identifying events and scheduling volunteers.

Youth Voter Projects

We have maintained an outstanding relationship with our partner, the Travis County Tax Office and The Travis County Clerk’s Office. We developed new relationships with Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Austin Community College (ACC), the Austin Independent School District (AISD), and other school districts in Travis County, and the Texas Charter School Association. In an effort to get more youth and their families involved, we partnered with several of these organizations to create and implement a program in the High Schools.

“First Vote” was launched at Travis High School in March 2016 where we engaged with the senior class to register them and to provide information on voting rights and voter education in an assembly. High schools throughout Travis County are participating in the program including the charter and private schools.

This fall we are conducting a Mock Presidential Election in schools throughout Travis County on October 4, 2016. Students will be allowed to write about their experience for publication and/or participate in a PSA Video Contest.

“YouthCam - Student PSA Contest”

This Public Service Announcement (PSA) video contest is for high school students and is designed to promote voter registration and voter turnout at the polls, especially among young voters in Travis County. The contest is open from March 29 to Aug. 21, 2016.

The contest theme is “Register. Be Counted. Vote!” and entrants will use the already developed logo in their productions. YouthCam – Student PSA Contest is a collaboration of the Travis County Tax Office Voter Registration Division; Travis County Clerk Office Elections Division; League of Women Voters Austin Area; Univision; Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas; and KVUE-TV. The Austin League has contributed \$1,500 for this program.

Explore UT

On March 5, 2016, the League was invited to participate in the annual University of Texas (UT) event to inform students, parents, teachers, and community members from across the state about the public research institution and higher education in Texas. This year their goal was to add a civic engagement component. The team registered eligible Travis County voters and did mock voter registration for the children who came from all over the state by bus.

Voters Guide

We produced a *Voters Guide* for the November 2015 election dealing with the Travis County bond issue. The *Voters Guide*, in English and Spanish, for the March 2016 Joint Primary was distributed by the *Austin American-Statesman* prior to Early Voting. We also printed and locally distributed an extra 6,000 copies. There were 33,000 downloads of the March 2016 *Voters Guide* from our website! On March 1st, Election Day, alone, 7,000 people visited our website.

Frances McIntyre, Donna Pauler, and Jaci Collins provide outstanding leadership to this effort every year.

Other Voters Service Activities

“Use Your Voice Concert Series 2016 “ was a program featuring Patty Griffin and friends through collaboration with LWVUS, at Bass Concert Hall at UT. Cinde Weatherby did an outstanding job of coordinating the event and making the pre-show announcement. We received a \$500 grant for our participation. The grant will be used to offset the cost of the *Voters Guide* and the FirstVote program. We registered voters and distributed information about the League and the voting schedule through November.

Candidate Forums

AISSD District 7 invited our participation to conduct a candidates forum for a replacement to the board due to the loss of the District 7 member. This fall, forums will be held for the November General Election.

Jacklyn Williams, Voters Service Chair

ADVOCACY REPORT

The Austin League has been busy this year trying to guide our civic leaders toward good government.

I spoke to the City Council on a number of subjects representing League positions. There were environmental statements, mainly about increasing solar energy; balancing increased homestead exemptions with the needs of the city departments; transparency in several matters related to open government; encouraged new laws governing lobbyists to Ethics Review Commission and Council; equity in property appraisals; admonished Mayor and Council for not allowing public testimony when it was scheduled; Board agreed to sign a petition on greenhouse gases and fossil-free future that was presented to the United Nations Climate conference in Paris. Addressed gun policy for County Employees (not allowed); petition on gun on campus. Offered the League's help to AISD regarding the equity issue.

All-in-all, the League is respected for it's civic engagement and I believe we have been a good influence in our city and county.

Frances McIntyre, Advocacy Chair and *Voters Guide* Editor

PROGRAM REPORT

An Overview Of Program Accomplishments and Recommendations

Mary Cullinane, Former Program Vice-President, and Lea Masiello, Program Vice-President; Joanne Richards Chair - Money in Politics Study (National)

Accomplishments

New Discussion Programs

- **Discussion Program Initiated by Frances McIntyre: Local Issues at the City Level.** To help members become better informed about local issues, Frances McIntyre initiated a monthly discussion group. Examples of topics included the Decker Lake golf course, Austin Energy, the South MoPac proposed improvements, City ethic reforms, homestead exemptions, AISD equity study, and Travis County's future bond election.
- **Discussion Program Initiated by Mary Cullinane and the Committee on “Ladders of Opportunity.”** This local study was reframed in terms of economic inequality to examine the ways in which the Austin population experiences limitations on their economic mobility. This program aims to help us understand how we can work to improve economic equality by focusing on the topics of education, family planning, low wages, discrimination, affordable housing, adequate nutrition, reliable transportation, land use decisions, child care, and health care. This approach will include educational programs over the next few years with speakers to address the various facets of poverty and inequality.

Other Programs

Annual Kick-Off Meeting. Speaker: Ms. Gina Hinojosa, then president of Austin Independent School District Board of Directors, was the featured speaker at the Kick-Off Meeting on September 20, 2015. Ms. Hinojosa addressed the current status of the AISD.

Social Media training for Facebook on Sept. 26, 2015 and Facebook and Twitter on February 27, 2016.

State and National Studies

LWV Austin Area completed two studies, one state, one national. Each study included unit meetings, general meetings, consensus meetings, and concluded by sending consensus reports to the state and national leagues.

LWVTEXAS Study: Payday and Auto-Title Loans

Oct. 11, 2015. General Membership Meeting, Payday and Auto-Title Loans. Panel Discussion. Speakers included Bee Morehead - Texas Impact; Dana Edgerton - Office of Consumer Credit Commission of Texas; Kathleen Hunker, policy analyst for the Center for Economic Freedom with the Texas Public Policy Foundation; Mark Pogor - Treasurer, Diocese of Austin Society of St. Vincent de Paul; Howard Porter - Texas Community Capital; Ann Baddour - Texas Appleseed, and Jeff Patterson - Executive Director of the Texas Catholic Conference. KEYE ran a segment on the panel discussion on the Sunday 10 pm news, which included a brief overview of the event and an interview with our president, Carol Olewin.

LWVUS Study: Money in Politics. The Money in Politics Committee conducted an update of the League's position on campaign finance to increase member understanding and agreement as to

whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position was updated through a study and consensus process to consider the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities.

Nov. 15, General Meeting. Panel discussion, with speakers Craig McDonald -Texans for Public Justice Director; Roger Borgelt - Austin attorney; Kurt Hildebrand - Texas Libertarian Party Chair; Michael Schneider - Texas Association of Broadcasters; and Sara Smith - attorney with Environment Texas.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS, 2016 - 2017

We conducted several surveys to determine areas of interest among the membership. The following topics were most frequently identified as important by our board and by our general membership and will be integrated into unit meetings, general membership meetings, and working discussion groups associated with Ladders of Opportunity and Local Issues:

Examinations of—

1. how Austin is currently managing its growth, relative to housing, transportation, and employment;
2. major factors that weaken equality in the criminal justice system;
3. how Austin is currently addressing environmental concerns in our use of natural resources, including water, energy, and greenspaces;
4. current strengths and weaknesses of healthcare in Austin;
5. equality in educational opportunities, including libraries and the availability of digital technology to all students.

Program recommendations from the National LWV will arrive after the LWVUS Convention in June 2016. After that, the LWVAustin Area will consider the national recommendations for studies.

State And National Programs, 2016-2017

LWVAA will participate in the following LWV-Texas programs and the studies passed at the LWV-Texas Convention in March 2016:

1. **Get Out the Vote.** Goal: Encourage informed and active participation in government by facilitating voter engagement. Objective: increase voter turnout in Texas by 5% from 2012 to 2020. Strategies: develop outreach and resources; establish and facilitate a voter engagement network of organizations involved in voter registration, education, and turnout; collaborate with other local Leagues to promote voter turnout; use developed activities, such as workshops, presentations, templates, news releases, and public service announcements to increase voter turnout; and continue work on voter registration in high schools.
2. **Update to the current LWV-Texas Redistricting Position.** Explore the ways in which an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) could improve the system of drawing political district lines in the State of Texas. Study the ways in which a process using an ICRC could improve registration, voting, and legislative representation and action.

BY-LAWS REPORT

Proposed By-Laws Changes: League Of Women Voters Austin Area

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Number, Manner, Election, Term of Office. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League of Women Voters Austin Area, enumerated in Article V, Section 1, and six (6) elected directors, and not more than six (6) directors appointed by the board.

RATIONALE: The proposed additions are to clarify for the Nominating Committee the differences between elected officers, elected directors, and those that may be appointed by the board.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a third vice-president, a fourth vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting.

RATIONALE: The provision to be able to elect two persons to share an office is accounted for in Article VIII, Nominating Committee, Section 2.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 5. Education Fund. The League of Women Voters Austin Area board members serve as fiduciary managers for the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund.

RATIONALE: This addition to the By-laws is to clarify the responsibility of the LWVAA board with regard to the administration of the LWV Education Fund financials.

Maxine Barkan, Chair, By-laws Committee,

Committee members: Karen Haschke and Shelly Baumgartner

Proposed BUDGET—LWVAA**Tom Canby, Budget Chair**

(The LWVAA Board of Directors recommends adoption.)

LWV Austin Area, Proposed 2016–2017 Budget, June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017

Income	2015-2016 Budget	2016-2017 Budget	Notes
Contributions	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Membership	18,233.00	16,913.00	
Interest-savings/short-term investments	100.00	100.00	
State of the City Dinner	6,500.00	6,600.00	
Total Income	\$25,833.00	\$24,613.00	
Expenses			
From Education Fund	\$(4,100.00)	(4,958.00)	Reimburse-LWVAA
Travel - State Convention	1,200.00	0.00	No Convention in 2017
Travel - National Convention	100.00	0.00	
Training-Regional	0.00	200.00	
Insurance	1,400.00	1,400.00	
Rent	3,720.00	3,720.00	
Personal property taxes	20.00	20.00	
Board of Directors	75.00	275.00	Moved Transition Meeting to this account
Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	100.00	
Computer & Office Supplies	1,100.00	1,100.00	
Telephone & telecommunications	1,250.00	1,750.00	
Web Page Hosting & Facebook	500.00	432.00	
PayPal	150.00	300.00	
E-Mail Hosting	600.00	450.00	
Postage, shipping, delivery	350.00	300.00	
Printing & copying	100.00	100.00	
Fundraising expenses	100.00	300.00	Increase for membership in Mission Capital
State of the City	4,000.00	6,200.00	
Membership Directories	150.00	150.00	
Voter Newsletter	300.00	100.00	
Annual Report	150.00	150.00	
Advocacy	150.00	400.00	
Recognition/Speaker Gifts	200.00	200.00	

Kick-Off Meeting	200.00	0.00	Combined with Membership Meetings
Transition Meeting	200.00	0.00	Moved to Board Expense
Membership Meetings	500.00	750.00	Includes Kick-Off Meeting
National PMP	7,355.00	6,546.00	Based on lower membership #
State PMP	5,063.00	4,628.00	Based on lower membership #
Capital Purchases	1,000.00	0.00	Not needed
Total Expense	25,833.00	24,613.00	

BUDGET — EDUCATION FUND

(For information purposes only. Adopted by the LWVAA Board of Directors.)

LWVAA Education Fund Budget 2016–2017, 6/1/16–5/31/17			
Income	2015- 2016 Budget	2016-1207 Budget	Notes
Voters Guide Contributions	300.00	15,000.00	Aggressive fund raising
Contributions	1,500.00	1,900.00	Unusual contributions in 2015-16
Memorial/Honorary Contributions	400.00	-	
State of the City Auction	5,000.00	7,000.00	Increase realized in current year
Randall's Contributions	200.00	200.00	
Business Contributions	-	-	
Interest-savings/short-term inv.	150.00	200.00	
Fund Raising	-	4,000.00	Increased contributions for student film project & general outreach program
Total Income	7,550.00	28,300.00	
Expenses			
Bank Expense	0.00	42.00	Est. cost of checks
Supplies	150.00	50.00	Very little spent on supplies
Pay Pal	100.00	200.00	
Reimbursement to AA Fund	4,100.00	4,958.00	
Program Expense	500.00	4,250.00	Youth Voter Engagement & other GOTV efforts
Voters Guide Expense	1,800.00	15,000.00	Costs increased dramatically
Fund Raising Expense	0.00	500.00	Est. cost for donation appeals
State of the County Expense	0.00	2,250.00	Cost of Consultant for Auction
Program Publications	0.00	50.00	
Elected Officials Reception	500.00	500.00	
Vote 411 Expense	400.00	350.00	
Candidates Forums	0.00	150.00	
Total Expense	7,550.00	28,300.00	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

League of Women Voters Austin Area, Nominating Committee Slate for 2016-2018

Elected Officers, Terms of Office:

President:	Cinde Weatherby	2016 - 2018
1st VP (Program):	Lea Masiello	2016 - 2018
2nd VP (Community Relations):		2015 - 2017
3rd VP (Organization):	Jaci Collins	2015 - 2017
4th VP (Voters Service):	Jacklyn Williams	2016 - 2018
Secretary:	Diane Davis	2016 - 2018
Treasurer:	Gwen Santiago	2015 - 2017

Six Directors, One-Year Terms:

Advocacy:	Frances McIntyre	2017
Communication/Publicity:	Charlotte Slack	2017
Membership Co-Chair:	Judy Parken	2017
Membership Co-Chair:	Brenda Koegler	2017
Voter Editor:	Donna Pauler	2017
Voter Registration:	June Conway	2017

Up to Six Directors Appointed by Board (if needed)

Development:	Sara Groff	2017
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Off-Board Chairs:

Budget:	Tom Canby	2017
By-Laws:	Maxine Barkan	2017
Roster Manager:	Jane McFarland	2017
Special Events:	Eliza May	2017
Voters Guide, Editor:	Frances McIntyre	2017
Webmaster:	Hal Jennings	2017
Workbook Editor	Jaci Collins	2017

Margit Orange, Nominating Committee Chair

LWVAA NONPARTISAN POLICY STATEMENT

(Adopted May 1996; updated 2002 to reflect board position; revised 2009, 2012.)

The League of Women Voters Austin Area endorses the position on nonpartisanship held by the League of Women Voters of the United States which states: The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Board of Directors: League board members and spokespersons shall refrain from conspicuous partisan political activities during their term of office. Conspicuous partisan activities are those which would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship. If in doubt, board members and spokespersons should consult with the board.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member shall be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.

Should a Board member wish to become a candidate for public office, she/he shall submit a written resignation in sufficient time to allow the League to publicly announce the change in status. Resignation from the board does not mean resignation from the League.

All League Members:

League Positions - Once League (local, state or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

Representing the League – Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernible. These members should be fully aware of League positions.

Serving on Commissions – Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the appointee represents the League, then the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions in relation to the commission's responsibilities.

League Meetings – Members in the leadership roles at unit and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.

League Roster – The League of Women Voters Austin Area roster shall not be made available for non-League use without Board permission.

Board Direction – If a Board member, off-board chair, or member becomes involved in a situation in which the nonpartisan policy of the League may be jeopardized, such member shall ask for a Board decision on appropriate action.

BY-LAWS, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AUSTIN AREA

(Changes adopted at 2000, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 Annual Meetings.)

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters Austin Area (LWVAA). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Texas and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES AND POLITICAL POLICY

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League of Women Voters Austin Area are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policy. The League of Women Voters Austin Area may take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIPS

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of memberships. The membership of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

A. Voting members shall be citizens at least 18 years of age who have joined the LWVAA; these individuals shall be voting members of the LWV Texas and of the LWVUS, as well.

1. individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
2. those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; and
3. those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

B. Associate members shall be all others who join the League.

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (changes 2016)

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League of Women Voters Austin Area, enumerated in Article V, Section 1, and six (6) elected directors, and not more than six (6) directors appointed by the board. ~~The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League of Women Voters Austin Area, six (6) elected directors, and not more than six (6) appointed directors.~~ Six (6) directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The President with the advice and consent of the elected members of the board shall appoint additional directors, not exceeding six (6), as is deemed necessary to carry on the work of the League. Appointed directors shall serve from the time of appointment until the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be appointed or elected or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters Austin Area.

Section 3. Vacancies. In the event of the absence, disability, disqualification, or death of the president, the nominating committee shall be directed to find a candidate and submit the name to the board for election by a majority vote of the board. All other vacancies occurring in the board of directors may be filled by presidential appointment for the remaining portion of the year with a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. Any board member who is absent from three consecutive board meetings without valid reason shall be considered to have resigned.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting. The board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5. Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board of directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors and shall call a special meeting upon written request of five (5) members of the board.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum. Any one or more members of the Board may participate in a Special Meeting by means of electronic communication. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at said meeting. All votes taken at such Special Meetings shall be ratified at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Executive Committee. The board may appoint an executive committee consisting of no fewer than five members of the board. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it and shall report on all actions taken by it to the board between regular meetings of the board.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS (changes 2016)

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a third vice-president, a fourth vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting. ~~The officers of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be a president, and/or co-presidents, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a third vice-president, a fourth vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an annual meeting.~~ The president, the first vice-president, the fourth vice-president, and the secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years. The second vice-president, the third vice-president, and the treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

Section 2. The President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; shall have such usual power of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. The president or other officers when so authorized by the board may sign contracts and other instruments.

Section 3. Vice-presidents. The vice-presidents shall perform such duties as the president and board may designate. It shall be the duty of each vice-president to supervise and coordinate the activities of the chairs assigned to her/his jurisdiction.

Section 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the annual meetings of the League and all other meetings of the board of directors; notify all officers and directors of their election; and perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due; be custodian of the monies and deposit them in a bank designated by the board of directors, and disburse the same only upon order of the board; present statements to the board at its regular meetings, and an annual report to the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION (changes 2016)

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall begin on the first day of June, ending on May 31 of the following year.

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be determined by the board of directors and approved as part of the budget adopted by the members attending the annual meeting. Dues shall be payable on the anniversary of the month the member joins. Any continuing member who fails to pay her/his dues within three months of the first of the anniversary month shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 3. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the board of directors to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 4. Budget Committee. A budget committee shall be appointed by the board of directors at least two months prior to the annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chairman.

Section 5. Education Fund. The League of Women Voters Austin Area board members serve as fiduciary managers for the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least four meetings of the general membership each year. The time and place shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held during May, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall:

- A. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- B. elect officers and directors and a nominating committee chair;
- C. adopt a budget;
- D. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote as of January 1 of the current year.

ARTICLE VIII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of a chair, two members from the board, and two non-board members. The chair, who shall not be a member of the board, and the two non-board members shall be elected at the annual meeting; the board of directors shall appoint the members from the board. Vacancies on the committee during the year shall be filled in the same manner. Nominations for officers, directors and nominating committee chair may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Two members may be nominated and elected to share a single office. They will divide the duties of the office by mutual agreement. Each member shall have a vote on the board.

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers and directors shall be sent to all members at least one month before the date of the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall be secured.

Section 4. Elections. The election shall be by secret ballot, except when there is only one nominee the election may be by voice vote. The election of co-nominees for a single office shall be considered a single nomination. A majority of those qualified members present and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The new board members shall assume their duties June 1.

ARTICLE IX: PROGRAM

Section 1. Authorization. The governmental Principles adopted by the national convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the program.

Section 2. Program. The program of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be chosen for study or action at the annual meeting and may include action to implement the Principles of the League of Women Voters.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

- A. The board of directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- B. The proposed program shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting, together with not-recommended items and reasons for their rejection by the board.
- C. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of items in the proposed program as presented to the annual meeting by the board of directors.
- D. Any not-recommended program item(s) may be moved for consideration following the presentation of the recommended program. A majority vote shall place a not-recommended item before the annual meeting. Adoption of a not-recommended item requires a two-thirds vote. The program votes shall take place in the order in which items were considered.
- E. Suggestions for program at the annual meeting from the floor must meet the following criteria:
 1. the suggestion must have been presented to and approved by the president at least 24 hours prior to the annual meeting.
 2. the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a two-thirds vote.

3. the Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

F. Changes in the program, not considered at the annual meeting, may be made provided that:

1. information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed.
2. final action by the membership is taken at the succeeding meeting.

Section 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so under the Policy established by the board of directors. They act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the League of Women Voters Austin Area, the League of Women Voters of Texas, and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE X: VOTER SERVICE

Section 1. Voter Service. Activities of the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall include making available to the citizens in the community information on elections and other democratic processes.

ARTICLE XI: NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Section 1. National Convention. Delegates from the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be selected by the board of directors under the provisions of the by-laws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. State Convention/Council. Delegates from the League of Women Voters Austin Area shall be selected by the board of directors under the provisions of the by-laws of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules in “Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised” shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments. These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the annual meeting, provided that the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

POSITION STATEMENTS, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AUSTIN AREA

EDUCATION

(Program positions were revised and amended at the 2007 Annual Meeting, based on the 2005-2007 update study and consensus; and at the 2008 Annual Meeting, based on the tax abatement consensus.)

1. Support of equality of opportunity in education.

- The Austin Independent School District (AISD) should have as its goal to meet, if not exceed, the state and federal accountability standards for achievement, attendance, dropout rates, and completion rates in each school in the district, and to reduce the disparity in performance among schools.
- To achieve this goal, the schools must have fully certified teachers in all areas, adequate resources and support systems, and community involvement in the schools.

2. Support of strong education in AISD through the following goals at all grade levels, from prekindergarten and kindergarten, through elementary, middle, and high schools:

- Varied curriculum.
- Flexibility for teachers within defined curriculum.
- Providing teachers with the necessary preparation and encouragement to improve student achievement through relevant professional development (for example, to strengthen subject-matter knowledge, classroom-management skills, use of technology); adequate planning time; mentoring for new teachers and stipends for mentors; consideration of input from teachers in policy and administrative decisions; and encouragement of two-way communication between teachers and principals.
- An incentive-based compensation plan for all teachers and campus administrators who qualify.
- Provision of appropriate textbooks, technology, and/or materials.
- Full-time librarians in each school.
- Promotion of active parental involvement.
- Offering year-round schools with shorter vacation breaks and/or summer school.
- Flexible learning environments, as in nontraditional schools and alternative learning centers within AISD, and flexible learning environments extending into traditional secondary schools, as well.
- Programs for English Language Learners (ELL) to improve achievement among non-English speaking students and to support the goal of AISD in having every student speak English fluently, along with support services for the parents of non-English speaking AISD students.
- Addressing the health care needs of the student population by providing full-time health care team coverage for every school.

3. Support of strong elementary education in AISD through grouping of mixed academic ability within a classroom, and utilizing ability groupings in math and reading with frequent re-evaluation.

4. Support of strong middle school education in AISD through: initiatives to improve student transition from 5th to 6th grade and from 8th to 9th grade; student visits to feeder schools; parent orientations and campus visits; opportunities for planning and coordination between elementary, middle, and high school principals; summer transition programs for incoming 6th graders and incoming 9th graders; a rigorous summer school program for identified incoming 9th graders; and life-skills programs in middle schools.

5. Support for strong AISD secondary education (middle and high school) through:

- Initiatives to ensure a rigorous academic environment in middle and high schools; emphasis on critical thinking skills; advanced classes (for example, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment in college); early intervention for academically at-risk students; tutoring for students who fail a section or sections of the standardized test; rigorous summer school for students who fail one or more courses; Saturday school as an option; extended day as an option; extended school year as an option; after-school programs; night courses in high school; and support services for families of students.
- An honors program with weighted grades for those students who participate in it.
- Challenging academic courses that equip students to succeed in college.
- Initiatives to improve relationships between teachers, between teachers and students, and among students; lower pupil-teacher ratios; smaller learning communities (for example, 9th grade academies); coordinated planning time for teachers and team teaching; advisories; and study groups.
- Development of curriculum to include courses geared to current workforce needs.
- Use of demonstrated competencies and skills to help assess student progress with documents such as certificates or portfolios.
- Academies or magnet programs with flexible eligibility criteria.
- More efficient use of counselor skills, with focus on academic and career counseling, as well as adjustment counseling.
- Scheduling of co- and extra-curricular activities during non-school hours as much as possible.
- A tech-prep system that allows students either to enter the workforce upon graduation or seek post-secondary education.
- Job training courses for students who want to graduate with marketable skills.
- Apprenticeship-type programs, cooperative education, or internships to ease the transition from school to work.

6. Support for educational programs in Austin Community College and in AISD designed to prepare students for employment with marketable skills by:

- Having curriculum relevant to the work world with career awareness infused throughout the system.
- Developing curriculum to include courses geared to current workforce needs.
- Having students apply problem-solving.
- Providing career exploration by the 8th grade and administering occupational assessment tests, followed by counseling with students and parents, prior to high school enrollment.
- Conducting staff development to assist teachers in making the curriculum relevant, learning new teaching techniques, and operating equipment.
- Establishing a centrally located career planning and placement center.
- Supporting employer involvement in curricular and workforce training issues.
- Assigning staff to seek outside funding sources, shared use of facilities or equipment, internship or apprenticeship positions, and mentors for students.
- Securing adequate funding, including increased taxes, as state support declines.

7. Support for career preparation in Austin Community College through:

- Coordinated education paths between high school and college-level work.
- Education and employer-supervised apprenticeships and internship opportunities.
- Access to state-of-the-art technology for technical programs.
- Communication of changing workforce needs to instructional staff, counselors, and students.

8. Support for strengthened adult education programs in Austin Community College and in AISD Community Schools.

9. Opposition to AISD's participation in any tax rebates or abatements for businesses to locate or expand in the Austin area.

AUSTIN: ITS PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Support of equality of opportunity in employment and housing.
2. Support for well-run community development programs with frequent administrative reviews by city government.
3. Support of preservation and development of open space and parks.

CITY GOVERNMENT

(Adopted at the 1995 Annual Meeting; updated in 2007, 2012, 2015.)

1. Form of government: Support of council-manager form of government with the City Charter as its document.
2. Council and Elections
 - Support for direct election of the mayor.
 - For council member elections, support for the following structures, provided that under these structures, there are enough equal-sized geographic districts drawn to support minority opportunity districts:
 - geographic-district representatives plus at-large representatives, or
 - geographic-district representatives plus super geographic-district representatives, or
 - geographic-district representatives only.
 - Support of a campaign spending ordinance to be mandated in the City Charter.
 - **Support of an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.**
3. Personnel, General Provisions, and Ethics
 - Support of an impartial board of ethics with an independent staff.
 - Support of a financial disclosure ordinance to be mandated in the City Charter.
4. Planning and City Services
 - Support for a commission in the City Charter to plan for human resources.
 - Support for independent neighborhood groups.
5. Financial
 - Support for the early setting of budget priorities by Council.
 - Electric Utility and Electric Utility Transfer:
 - Support for an *electric utility transfer* based primarily on the needs of the utility, including its bonded indebtedness, rather than on the needs of the City budget.
 - Support for an *electric rate policy* that is based on the cost of service for each class of user and that strives for a goal of 100% relative rate of return for all customer classes.
6. Annexation

- Support for full consideration of an annexation’s fiscal impact on the City before City Council action.
- Support for flexibility in the timing of annexation based on fiscal, planning, environmental, and social factors.
- Support for the continued use of fees to cover the cost of utility extensions and other capital improvements necessary for new development.
- Support for homeowners in municipal utility districts’ continuing to pay off the district’s debt after annexation.
- Support for a strengthened subdivision ordinance covering the City’s entire extraterritorial jurisdiction.

7. Planning and Growth Management

- Support for cost benefit analysis as an integral part of the planning process.
- Support for ongoing public input into long-range planning with coordination and communication between City departments, boards, and commissions.
- Support for a balanced representation of diverse interests on the Planning Commission.
- Support for a standardized, streamlined, and understandable development process with proper regard for public notification from developer application to Council decision.
- Support for City involvement with private and other governmental entities in the selective recruitment of businesses. Environmental concerns should be taken into consideration, as should employment of Austin’s citizens.
- Support for tax abatements and/or tax rebates as an incentive to encourage economic development in the city. Among the criteria that should be considered by the county when determining which businesses receive tax abatements or rebates are:
 - Amount of total investment in Austin.
 - Location in the Desired Development zone.
 - Length of commitment for company to stay in Austin.
 - Demand on the community’s infrastructure.
 - Competition with existing local businesses.
 - Alignment with the city’s long-term economic development.
 - Environmental concerns.
 - Number of new jobs for Austin citizens.
 - Certain criteria for the newly created jobs, i.e.,
 - ✓ Health insurance
 - ✓ Diversity in hiring and promotion
 - ✓ Employee training programs
 - ✓ Livable wage
- Support for an accounting of the tax abatement/rebate incentives and their associated cost which is presented once a year, along with the Budget public hearings.

8. Drinking Water Supply

(Adopted at the 1998 Annual Meeting.)

- Support for use of factors that should be included in regional planning for: population, supply, water conservation, needs of sustainable industry, fishermen and agriculture, flood control and flood plain preservation, reservation and/or purchase of water (including water rights and interbasin transfers), privatization as an alternative, impacts on water quality, drought planning, governance, water and sewer treatment capacity, and the economic impact on the region as a whole.
- Support of a voluntary, aggressive treated water conservation plan that should become mandatory

only under drought conditions.

- Support of utility-provided educational programs, water-wise programs, a system-wide water leak detection program for utility-owned pipes, residential block pricing, programs to repair leaks for low-income housing, and development of incentives for conservation, where possible.
- Support for the following factors in evaluating future funding proposals for water treatment facilities: cost of maintenance, need to respond to immediate crisis, need to meet federal requirement, existence of a master plan, environmental impact, cost effectiveness, privatization as an alternative, and currency of technology.

9. Electric Deregulation

(Adopted at the 1998 Annual Meeting.)

- Support for the City Council consideration of all of its options regarding the *future of the electric utility*, including sale of part or all of the utility and/or merger with other entities. Factors that should be considered include: impact on rates for the various classes of consumers; maintenance of a “lifeline” rate for low-income consumers; the impact on the funding of city services (i.e. the transfer to the general fund and compensating fees and taxes); the competitive position of Austin Energy; environmental impacts; stranded debt and the ability to pay off electric utility revenue bonds; the level of local control that would exist; responsiveness and quality of customer service; and electric service reliability.
- Support for continued *energy conservation programs*, but they should be modified to be more cost effective and to have customers share more in the responsibility for programs from which they will benefit. Continue to provide:
 - Energy audits.
 - Rebates for low-income customers.
 - Rebates to encourage new or more efficient technology.
 - Lists of contractors.
 - Inspection of rehab jobs.
 - Weatherization of homes for low-income residents.
 - Consultation on new construction.
- Support for more *operating independence for the Utility*. Responsibility for purchasing, hiring, and other administrative functions should lie with Utility management. Establishment of an oversight board for the Utility, which would assume many of the policy-making powers currently held by the City Council, but would leave the powers of eminent domain, rate-making, and bond issuance with the City Council. Members of the oversight board should be selected on the basis of designated areas of expertise and should include at least one member representing the public. Change the City Charter to allow purchases without City Council (or oversight board) approval to a level commensurate with the expenditures of the Utility.

TRAVIS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(Updated in 2007.)

1. County Budget

- Support for one budget officer, a performance/program budget prepared and made available to the public before public hearings.
- Support for budget approval before the adoption of the tax rate and before the beginning of the fiscal year.

2. Law Enforcement

- Support for increased cooperation between Austin and Travis County law enforcement officers.
- Support for increased use of interlocal contracts between the county and incorporated governmental units for effective law enforcement.

3. Wastewater Management

- Support for improved cooperation among the City, County, LCRA, and the TCEQ in the enforcement of wastewater regulations.

4. County Parks

- Support for a unified county park system organized and maintained by a master plan.

5. Tax Assessment

- Support for fair and equitable appraisal of all real property in Travis County.

6. Planning and Growth Management

- Support for tax abatements and/or tax rebates as an incentive to encourage economic development in the county. Among the criteria that should be considered by the county when determining which businesses receive tax abatements or rebates are:
 - Amount of total investment in Travis County.
 - Location in the Desired Development zone.
 - Length of commitment for company to stay in Travis County.
 - Demand on the community's infrastructure.
 - Competition with existing local businesses.
 - Alignment with the county's long-term economic development.
 - Environmental concerns.
 - Number of new jobs for Travis County citizens.
 - Certain criteria for the newly created jobs, i.e.,
 - ✓ Health insurance
 - ✓ Diversity in hiring and promotion
 - ✓ Employee training programs
 - ✓ Livable wage
- Support for an accounting of the tax abatement/rebate incentives and their associated cost, which is presented once a year, along with the Budget public hearings.

LIBRARY

(Adopted in 1995.)

1. Support of a library system for Austin and the surrounding area, which includes both traditional library services and modern information management.

2. Support of a library system that includes:

- Adequate funding, even if it means a tax increase.
- The traditional role of lending books and other material.
- A reference library with modern information technology, including CD-ROM and access to the Internet information services available in the library, by phone, and online.
- Programs and informal education for adults and especially for children.

- Homework centers and tutoring.
- Outreach to encourage reading and library use.
- Community activities and meeting rooms.
- An adequate book/materials security system

3. Support for building more library branches, first in underserved areas, and secondly, in newly developed areas or as larger regional libraries.

4. Support for bond issues that include funding for new technology and replacing rented facilities.

5. Support for the use of the Austin library by people who do not live in Austin. However, those individuals or their communities should pay to help support the library.

6. Support for greater communication and cooperation between schools and libraries.

TRANSPORTATION

(Adopted in 1972, 1981, 1996, and 1998.)

1. Support for a community-wide system that serves the population as a whole; is publicly owned, efficient, and economical; and informs and educates the public on its use.

2. Support for the establishment and the sustainment of a permanent mass transit authority (MTA).

3. Support for the continued use of a one-cent sales tax to support the MTA.

4. Support for increased opportunities for meaningful citizen participation in the transportation planning process; and optimum cooperation and coordination in the administration, planning, and delivery of services among agencies that provide transportation.

5. Support for a balanced, intermodal Metropolitan transportation system that coordinates the use of:

- Automobiles.
- Buses.
- A fixed guide-way system (regional light rail).
- Park-and-ride facilities.
- Pedestrian and bicycle routes.
- Shuttles (or jitneys).
- Special transit services for the disabled and elderly.

6. Support for transportation-related measures that will keep the Austin Metropolitan Area in attainment of federal air quality standards (see Air Quality statement under Environmental Quality position), including:

- Carpools.
- Van pools.
- Buses.
- High-occupancy vehicle lanes
- Bicycles.
- Trip reduction.
- Walking.

- Conversion to natural gas, with more refueling centers.
- Recharge centers for (future) electric cars.
- A fixed guide-way system (light rail).
- Telecommuting.
- Home employment.
- Motor vehicle inspection.

7. Support for the following methods of transportation funding: governmental gasoline tax, the Austin Transportation Fee, and revenue from toll roads. Revenues from these sources will go toward improving city, county, and regional roads, and other transportation projects.

8. Support for multiple funding sources for the construction and operation of a fixed guide-way transportation system, including the use of bonds, federal funds, sales taxes, and user fees like gasoline taxes and fares.

9. Support for the integration of land-use planning and transportation planning in the Austin Metropolitan Area.

10. Support for the revision of local governments' development regulations, to include site design criteria that would encourage intermodal planning, including accommodations for pedestrians, bicycle trails, and transit.

11. Support for mixed-use development to help achieve the Austin Metropolitan Area's transportation goals.

12. Support for the encouragement of the Austin Transportation Study (ATS) to maintain ongoing, independent performance reviews of the governments and agencies that provide transportation services to the ATS area to provide accountability to the citizens of the Austin Metropolitan Area.

13. Support for the use of the following criteria to assess the suitability of specific funding proposals:
- Allows for faster project completion; a project cannot be completed without it.
 - Local dollars are used to leverage state and federal dollars.
 - An undue burden is not placed on any socio-economic group.
 - Funds are raised efficiently.
 - Funds are not reallocated without the consent of the funding body.
 - Balance of transportation modes is improved; the overall efficiency of the transportation system is enhanced.
 - The burden is placed on those that create the most wear and tear.
 - The cost of additional use of facilities is appropriately distributed.

HEALTH

(2003; in 2014, updated, added to, and absorbed old "Mental Health Services" section, which was adopted in 2008.)

Health Care

We support public funding to create, expand, and/or educate about:

1. Community-based, integrated health care services, where patients can receive primary and preventive physical and behavioral health services in the same place.
2. The use of the Medical Access Program (MAP) to pay for the health care of those who are not eligible for other forms of insurance, and a sliding-scale fee schedule for the near poor.
3. Maximizing all available state and local financing mechanisms to leverage as much federal money as possible to fund local health care services.
4. Contractual agreements with cities, counties, and other governmental entities for payment of health care delivered to non-Travis County residents.
5. Recruitment, education, and training of professional staff (i.e., physicians, nurses, social workers, case managers, outreach workers, etc.) to implement health and social service programs based on best practices.
6. A single county or multicounty health care district (hospital district) in Austin and/or Travis County with an appointed or elected board.

Behavioral Health Care

We support public funding to create, expand, and/or educate about:

7. Specialized, community-based behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services that can respond to patients at whatever their level of need (e.g., hotlines, information and referral, outpatient, crisis intervention, in-patient, long-term care/residential treatment, sobriety centers, and telemedicine), regardless of ability to pay.
8. Additional in-patient behavioral health beds in a health care facility or local hospital for crisis intervention and stabilization.
9. Programs/services (e.g., housing, transportation, employment, and other basic needs) to assist those with severe behavioral and/or physical health issues to live successfully in the community.
10. Mobile crisis outreach teams and hospital and jail-diversion projects to redirect individuals into behavioral health services and away from unnecessary incarceration or hospitalization.
11. An emphasis on preventive behavioral health programs and services.

Wellness and Health Promotion

We support public funding to create, expand, and/or educate about:

12. A system of public health and strong public health policy as a sound strategy for preventing disease, promoting health, and driving down health care costs.
13. Socioeconomic and health factors related to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
14. Encouraging a healthy lifestyle that includes a balanced diet taken in moderation, exercise, and self-education in healthy living.

15. Promotion and protection of women's access to health care, including all aspects of reproductive health.
(LWV-Texas statement)

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

(Reviewed in 1996; updated at the 1997 and 2009 Annual Meetings.)

1. Solid Waste

(Reaffirmed in 1996.)

- Support for recycling, reuse, and other methods of reducing the volume of waste.
- Support for long-range planning.
- Support for the improvement of our present sanitary landfill operation.

2. Support for Energy Conservation

(Reaffirmed in 1996.)

3. Water/Wastewater

(Adopted with recommended review changes in 1996; last two bullets adopted in 2009.)

- Continued support for the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and support for an underground water district for the northern Edwards Aquifer.
- To protect our water supplies, support use of: properly maintained and enforced structural controls, such as water quality ponds; properly maintained and enforced nonstructural controls, such as impervious cover limits, natural vegetation or vegetative filter strips; and best management practices.
- Support of vigorous enforcement of water quality ordinances and laws by City and County officials.
- Support of regular, formal communication between the TCEQ and the City of Austin.
- Support of regional sewage treatment plants rather than numerous small package plants.
- Support of the prohibition of sewage discharge or land treatment over aquifer recharge areas.
- Support of advanced wastewater treatment after cost benefit analysis has been done.
- Support for future development, to be addressed with more extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) control; fees should reflect the services; City should take into account the water usage of new development, i.e., high-rise condos, and assess charges accordingly.
- Support of planning for infrastructure of water and wastewater (drinking water, sewage, and storm water), to include all funding streams.
 - Have scheduled repairs as needed to avoid crisis management.
 - Include recurring maintenance costs in annual budgets.
 - Reduce usage or implement other conservation programs.
 - Budget for recurring maintenance costs for new facilities.
 - Create separate budget items for emergencies and capital expenditures.
 - Schedule ongoing tests for water and wastewater leakage.

4. Municipal utility district (MUD)

(Adopted as reviewed in 1997.)

- Support of the start of the 120-day MUD review process after full documentation is received by the City.
- Support for utility line extension financing through revenue bonds rather than contract bonds.

5. Air Quality

A 1987-1988 study of Austin's air quality indicated that at present the City complies with federal air quality standards. While no consensus was taken on the report, should Austin's air quality deteriorate in the future, further study may be recommended. In 1996, Austin does not exceed federal clean air standards, but the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has designated it as a near non-attainment area. (See the 1996 Transportation positions.)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

1. Support of adequate counsel for indigents at all court levels.
2. Support of improved training and selection standards for the local law enforcement personnel.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Adopted at the 2001 Annual Meeting.)

Local governments have a responsibility to help assure a supply of affordable housing to their residents. Responsibility should be exercised in the areas of ordinance making, policy making, and public education.

1. The LWVAA believes that local governmental bodies should consider the impact on the cost of housing when writing ordinances and developing policy.
2. The City should do more to educate neighborhoods about the advantages of mixed-income housing.
3. The LWVAA supports the waiver of development fees, expedited permit processing, and other incentives to developers to encourage the construction of affordable housing, but there should be strict monitoring and ready access of information to the public.
4. The LWVAA supports the concept of leasing surplus city/county property for affordable housing projects.
5. The City of Austin and Travis County should cooperate wherever possible on affordable housing and should try to work with adjoining counties and municipalities.
6. There should be more flexibility in the building and zoning codes of the City—particularly in allowing multifamily uses in commercial districts—but there should not be a wholesale move toward cumulative zoning. There could be increased residential densities along transit corridors and around the edges of single-family neighborhoods, but existing single-family neighborhoods should not be required to have increased density.